

# Grizzly

THE OFFICIAL MAGAZINE OF THE CALIFORNIA NATIONAL GUARD

DECEMBER 2002

## Gold Rush 2002:

A Barnum and  
Bailey whirl! P.16

## The J-Bird Cometh

The CC-130J  
Arrives at last, P.4

## 5,000 Hours and Counting!

A Momentous  
Day in F-16  
Maintenance  
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PLUS

**MUCH,  
MUCH  
MORE!**

**40 PAGES**

**POLICY AND LIAISON: WORKING FOR YOU ALWAYS, PAGE 20**



*Our success was made possible only by your magnificent work and unselfish dedication, and by the wonderful support given by your families.*

# An Extremely Challenging Year; A Job Well Done!

By MG Paul D. Monroe, Jr., The Adjutant General

As the New Year approaches, the California National Guard will complete one of the busiest, most challenging and successful years in its 152-year history. Since September 11th of last year, the California National Guard has undergone one of its largest mobilizations in fifty years, participated in several training exercises at home and abroad, responded to numerous state emergencies, took part in more community relations events than ever before, and hosted the largest, most successful conference and exposition in the history of the National Guard Association of the United States.

Our success was made possible only by your magnificent work and unselfish dedication, and by the wonderful support given by your families. I offer my most sincere gratitude to everyone for a job exceptionally well done.

As 2002 comes to an end, I wish every member of our Guard family a joyous and safe holiday season, and join you in praying that the New Year finds an abundance of peace on earth. 🐾

## Grizzly MAGAZINE

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*The Official Magazine  
of the California  
National Guard.*

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*Activated! Where they go cannot be disclosed. What they will do cannot be revealed.*

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# THE J-BIRD COMETH!

The C-130 has been the workhorse of the Air Guard's Airlift fleet for nearly 40 years. Now, there's a new bird in town: the CC-130J, and it's bigger, better, and badder than ever!

By 2Lt Julio J. Bermejo

**I**n May, the California National Guard's 146th Airlift Wing, Channel Islands Air National Guard Station, received the first of two CC-130J Hercules tactical airlift aircraft planned for delivery in 2002. The event signaled the beginning of the wing's transition from the 40-year-old C-130E aircraft to state-of-the-art CC-130Js.

The event was also the culmination of efforts by members of Congress — most notably California representatives Elton Gallegly and Jerry Lewis — with great local support to modernize the only tactical airlift unit on the West Coast.

Built by Lockheed Martin, the CC-130J is a stretch version of the C-130J, adding 15 feet to the fuselage, increasing usable space in the cargo compartment. The J-model incorporates

state-of-the-art technology to reduce manpower requirements and lower operating, support, and life-cycle costs. Compared to the C-130E, maximum speed is up 21 percent, and climb time is down 50 percent. Cruising altitude is 40 percent higher, and range 40 percent greater.

The CC-130J's major system improvements include an advanced two-pilot flight station with fully-integrated digital avionics, color multi-functional liquid crystal displays and head-up displays, dual inertial navigation system and global positioning system, new turboprop engines with six-blades, all composite propellers, improved fuel, environmental and ice protection systems, and an enhanced cargo handling system.

Modernization to the CC-130J will assist the 146th Airlift Wing in meeting its dual state and



**Congressman Elton Gallegly officially christens the first CC-130J to be assigned to the 146th Airlift Wing. The CC-130J is the first "factory new" aircraft the 146th Airlift Wing has received in 75 years.**

PHOTO BY SMSGT DENNIS GOFF



federal missions well into the 21st Century. It is one of only four Air National Guard and Air Force Reserve units using the Modular Airborne Fire Fighting System to aid the U.S. Forest Service, the California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection, and other fire management agencies. Conversion to the J-model will allow the 146th Airlift Wing to continue its proud service as the leader in support of federal and state forestry agencies in combating wildland fires.

Additionally, the wing's 146th Aero-medical Evacuation Squadron (AES), is among the most heavily tasked AES units in the Air Force today, and will benefit greatly from the new CC-130J's improved performance, advanced systems, and greater cargo capacity. The J-model can carry 97 litters, a 24

percent increase over the C-130E's 74. Such improvements will allow the squadron to continue enhancing the emergency medical capabilities of partner countries such as Chile and Ukraine.

During a June ceremony celebrating the arrival of the wing's first J-model, then-Acting Director of the Air National Guard, Brigadier General David A. Brubaker, congratulated the men and women of the 146th Airlift Wing, saying, "None of it could

be possible without the 146th being a great unit. These aircraft are not simply handed out. They are not gifts. They are a responsibility that America has entrusted to its best: the 146th Airlift Wing."

The day's colorful festivities included two brief orientation flights aboard the new aircraft for distinguished visitors and the media. 🐾



LOCKHEED MARTIN PHOTO



PHOTO BY SFC ROBERT PACK

# SPACE OPS

By Captain Anni Mu Loeb

The California National Guard literally extended its reach into space recently when its 148th Space Operations Squadron (SOPS) at Vandenberg Air Force Base became fully operational.

The new unit is one of many initiatives realized by the California National Guard as its senior leadership continues its drive to fulfill the Adjutant General's vision of a premier military force, well disciplined, qualified, and resourced to accomplish its missions in the 21st Century.

The 148th SOPS is the first and only Air National Guard in the nation to command and control the Military Strategic and Tactical Relay (Milstar) satellite system.

By possessing the nation's top priority communication satellite system, the 148th SOPS provides the Department of Defense (DOD), the National Command Authorities and the Armed Forces of the United States worldwide, secure, survivable, and low probability of intercept/detection satellite communications. Designed to impede enemy jammers and capable of withstanding nuclear effects, Milstar is the most robust and reliable satellite communication system employed by the DOD.

The satellite is immune from electronic magnetic pulse (EMP) that is created when a nuclear weapon is exploded blocking signals between the ground and satellite. Milstar has a hardened shell impervious to a nuclear blast and cloud.

"The Milstar can drive a signal through an EMP cloud," said Major Robert Hill, Air Force advisor to the 148th SOPS. "It's forward deployable, that's key."

The multi-satellite constellation can link command authorities from a wide variety of source points, including ships, submarines, aircraft and ground stations. The Nation uses Milstar for both strategic and tactical operations. The Army, however, "will become the primary tactical customer," according to Hill. He explained that the Army will eventually have portable satellite terminals in the field to plug into the Milstar system.

Because Milstar operators can encrypt and encode the communication system from their station, the Army will eventually reduce its reliance on cumbersome authentication, encoding and decoding procedures. If the enemy captures a terminal, Milstar can lock it out of the system.

"We're excited about being on the leading edge of technology," said Major General Dan Gibson, commander of the California Air National Guard. "The 148th is the ideal choice for this mission. The real strength of the 148th SOPS lies in the quality of its people. I can't say enough about the vast talent we have. They are our most precious resource." 🐾



**Senior Airman Januari Reyes, satellite system operator, oversees the Satellite Mission Control Subsystem that operates the Milstar.**



# An Army of Two

*Army Engineers  
are helping the  
California Army  
National Guard  
with renovations at  
Camp San Luis  
Obispo...and  
saving the  
Guard a cool  
\$1 million!*



## Article and photos by Major Stan Zezotarski

**W**hat can an Army of Two Do? Plenty! Especially when it works as an Army of One. That's what happened when the California National Guard and the Active Army joined forces last October in a joint venture to intensify individual soldier training, sharpen readiness, and generate high-quality training facilities at Camp San Luis Obispo (CSLO).

"This is our first mission at a National Guard facility," said Captain Jeff Doss, personnel officer for the 84th Engineer Construction Battalion. "The work we're doing here is more specialized to our military occupational skills. We normally don't get to do electrical and plumbing."

The visionary concept emerged when CSLO Commander, Colonel William Hatch searched for ways to execute the California Army National Guard initiative to improve the state's training areas. BG Dennis Kenneally, California Army National Guard commander, announced several initiatives, including training area upgrades at CSLO, Camp Roberts and Los Alamitos during the State Commanders' Conference, August 16th. Once Hatch learned that the 84th Engineer Construction Battalion had its own initiative to seek out civic, strategic, and tactical work around the world, he proposed that the two components unite their proposals to renovate six on-post buildings and lay a concrete slab at an off-base facility.

Camp San Luis Obispo contracted for the Bill of Materials and the 84th agreed to do the renovations. The battalion is renovating three classroom buildings, converting a building into a troop service center—complete with laundromat, barbershop, and dry cleaners—a hotel-type house for visiting officials, and a backup Emergency Operations Center that the Sacramento Headquarters could jump to and continue command and control functions in the event the State Headquarters Operations Center becomes unserviceable. Using the 84th is saving the California National Guard an estimated \$1million, according CSLO staffers.

"We would probably be able to renovate only two buildings instead of six if we were using private contractors," said Master Sergeant Thomas Oliver, CSLO project officer. "These guys are working on these projects until ten o'clock at night. You can't ask private contractors to work overtime hours—the costs would go through the roof."

According to Second Lieutenant Cindy Stockamp, second platoon leader, Bravo Company, 84th Engineer Battalion, many soldiers are so motivated that they are returning to work sites after normal duty hours to work on the buildings. "One night 20 of 25 members of my platoon showed up on their own time to continue working on the classroom," Stockamp said. "They normally don't get to do this work on other missions."

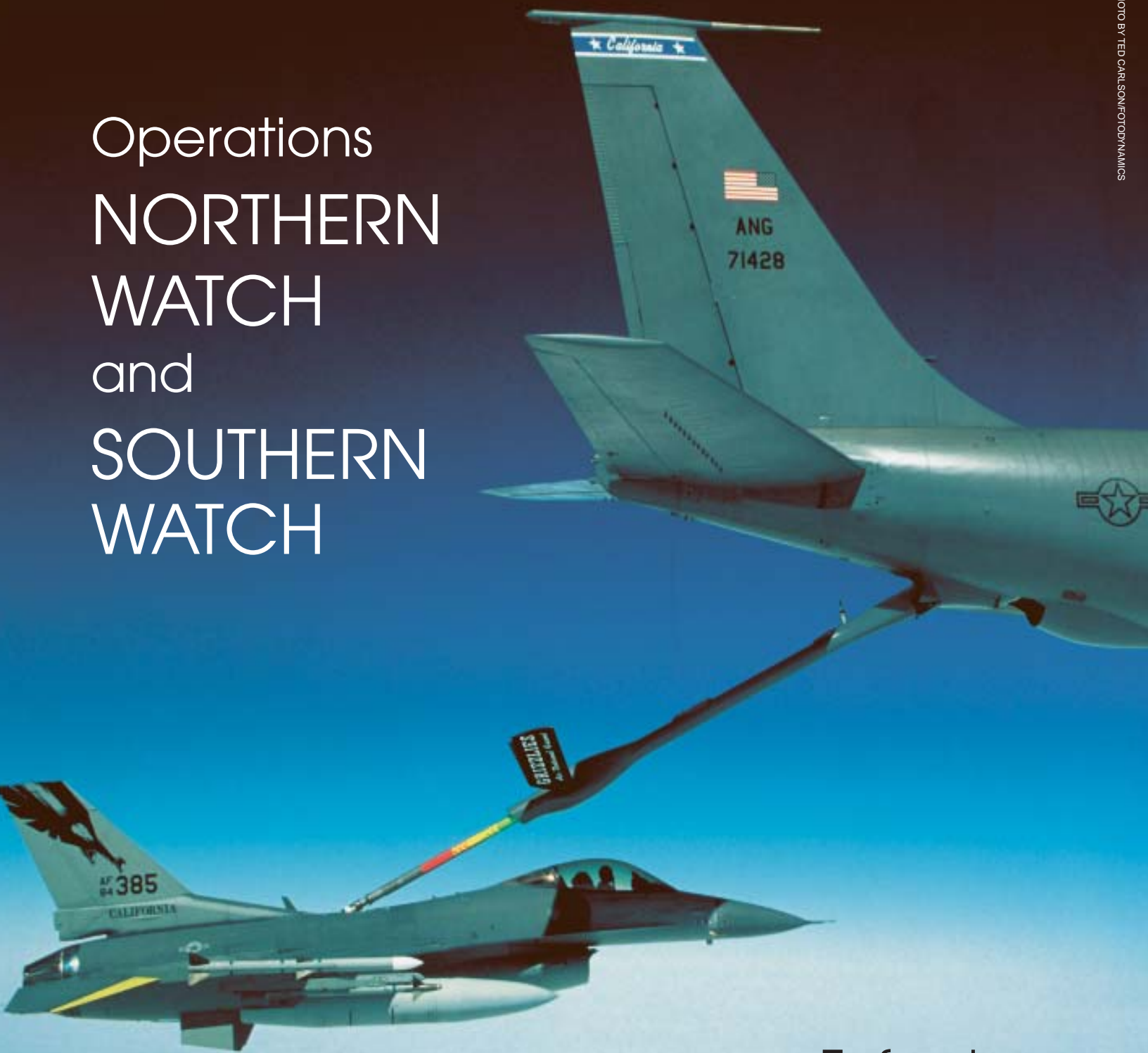
Private First Class Jesse Benton later added, "We go to third-world countries and build schools. We do good work, but the construction standards are not the same as in the U.S." The soldiers build simple masonry and cinderblock schoolhouses in the third-world countries, Doss explained. Rarely do they have the opportunity to install entire electrical and plumbing systems. Ironically, the renovation projects at CSLO offers this challenge.

The 84th is helping the California National Guard maintain its critical path to achieve its initiative. The battalion brought about 200 of its soldiers into CSLO in late September. The battalion remained at the Camp until November 1st. With more than 600 buildings and with Camp Roberts less than 100 miles away, it's conceivable that the battalion could return in the next couple of years. The Camp Roberts staff has contacted the 84th with a list of requests to improve its facilities.

The imaginative concept could not come at a more appropriate time. With the improved facilities, the California National Guard now has additional options for moving its operations, virtually uninterrupted, if Homeland Security measures require relocation.



# Operations NORTHERN WATCH and SOUTHERN WATCH



Enforcing  
the No-Fly  
Zones over  
Iraq



By Major Stan Zezotarski and  
First Lieutenant Michelle Van Der Linden

**T**hanks to the courage, skill, and professionalism of the Air National Guard, world stability remained in check following the tragic terrorist attacks on September 11, 2001.

Long before elected leaders at all levels activated National Guards to launch the War on Terrorism, Air National Guard units from across the country were rotating through Kuwait and flying patrols over the

"no-fly zones" over Iraq. The missions are in support of Operations NORTHERN WATCH and SOUTHERN WATCH, a joint operation between the United States, United Kingdom, and Turkey designed to enforce the treaty signed with Iraq following the Persian Gulf War. Under the treaty, Iraq is prohibited from flying aircraft in

airspace bordering states that threatens security in the region. Through the Aerospace Expeditionary Force mission, Air National Guard units rotate units through the operations every 18 months.

California's 144th Fighter Wing with its F-16 Fighters and the 163rd Air Refueling Wing rotated through Operations NORTHERN WATCH and SOUTHERN WATCH for periods between 45 and 90 days. After undergoing successful and highly intense training in the U.S., the 144th's pilots left their civilian jobs and successfully evaded Iraqi surface-to-air missile launches to keep the no-fly zones clear of enemy aircraft.

Critical to its mission, as well as all ally aircraft supporting these operations, was

the refueling services of the 163rd Refueling Wing. Since November 2001, the 163 Air Refueling Wing has off-loaded more than 2.5 million gallons of fuel from its KC-135R Stratotanker aircraft to various NATO aircraft in support of Operation NORTHERN WATCH. Operating out of Incirlik Air Base in Turkey, the 163rd had deployed 175 members, flew 206 sorties and consumed 903 flying hours before mid-July in 2002.



PHOTO BY TED CARLSON/FOTODYNAMICS

"This has been a challenging eight months," said 163rd Wing Commander, Colonel Al Aimar. "We have had to ask many of our traditional Guardsmen to leave their full-time jobs, their families and other commitments to depart the country and serve. We have fulfilled our commitment 100

percent, but not without a number of issues coming up where we had to put our collective heads together and come up with creative solutions," said the colonel. "Anytime you ask people to deploy, there are going to be problems. If you want to retain your people when they come home from an extended deployment, you need to keep them informed and treat them right. We have several airline pilots who work for us. When they are deployed for 45 days, they are noncurrent when they return to work and have to undergo additional training. Some people have had to deal with medical coverage issues, as they lost their benefits after 30 days with their civilian employer," Al Aimar said. 🐾

# A New Commander

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## FOR THE

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# State Military Reserve

By Major Fred-Otto Egeler, Captain Kas Jordan, and Colonel Ernie Zuick

Brigadier General Robert A. Cervantes relinquished his command of the State Military Reserve (SMR) to MG John E. Bianchi during an August ceremony held at the National Guard's

Headquarters in Sacramento. This is the second time MG Bianchi has led the SMR and brings an impressive amount of top-level military and civilian experience to the position. In his remarks,



MG Paul D. Monroe, Jr. (Left), The Adjutant General, passes the command flag to incoming State Military Reserve Commander, MG John E. Bianchi.

PHOTOS BY SFC ROBERT PACK



the outgoing commander, BG Cervantes, said that he was honored to be given the trust of the command and proud of his contributions to the SMR. "I believe that I am most proud of the increased numbers of minorities and women who are now serving in the SMR."

Following the ceremony, MG Paul D. Monroe, Jr., The Adjutant General, presented General Cervantes with the California National Guard's Medal of Merit and praised Cervantes for his outstanding service to the SMR and the Guard. He commented that Cervantes' new assignment would be to improve the California National Guard's youth at-risk programs.

Following 9/11, the California National Guard's role in the nation's security increased

intends to streamline the system. "Our most obvious source of talent and manpower is from the retired ranks of the California Army and Air National Guard," Bianchi said. "The California National Guard loses 2,500 personnel each year from all ranks, due to anticipated or early retirements. This is an extremely valuable manpower pool of personnel already trained, uniformed, and familiar with the system, thus requiring little training other than familiarization with the respective SMR units they will support," MG Bianchi explained.

But the new commander isn't looking for just any National Guard retiree. "I'm looking for the cream of the crop—proven professionals who believe in the State Military Reserve program:



**MG Paul D. Monroe, Jr. (Right) shakes hands with outgoing SMR Commander, BG Robert Cervantes, as the SMR's new commander, MG John Bianchi looks on.**

dramatically, and, along with those greater responsibilities, came a call to action by the SMR to assist with many more volunteer man-hours than ever before. The new SMR commander, MG John Bianchi said, "I am confident that our organization will continue, as it has in the past, to give all it has to ensure the best support is given to the Guard."

One of General Bianchi's top priorities is to increase the 473-member SMR force by 30 percent annually during the next three years, in response to ever-increasing requests for support services from California National Guard units throughout the state. At the same time, Bianchi



**MG Monroe (Left) and MG Bianchi discuss law enforcement issues with El Dorado County Sheriff, Hal Barker, a Colonel in the SMR.**

leaders, administrators, and technicians who are willing to work hard and donate much of their time to support the force," Bianchi said.

State Military Reserve members commit to serve a minimum of one drill day a month plus 100 additional hours a year on an unpaid basis; many serve much more than that. When called to State Active Duty, they may be paid at the same rate as their California National Guard counterparts. Any California National Guard members contemplating retirement who wish to continue to serve their state and nation as members of the State Military Reserve are urged to contact MSG Rich Castillo at (916) 854-3847 for more details. 🐾

# GOLD RUSH 2002

Stars & dignitaries turn out for  
the most successful NGAUS  
Annual Conference ever!



Former California  
Army Guardsman,  
Tom Selleck,  
accepts the  
"Spirit of America  
Award" from  
Major General  
Paul D. Monroe, Jr.,  
California's  
Adjutant General.



By MAJ Stan Zezotarski, CPT Alana Schwermer, MSG Ben Delaney,  
SFC Harry Williams, SGT Scott Kelley, and Lisa Cooksey

**F**or the more than 4,000 delegates and guests that attended the 124th National Guard Association of the United States' Conference in Long Beach last September, few had any recollection of the last conference California hosted in San Francisco 30 years earlier, but many will never forget the NGAUS 2002 Gold Rush Conference.

They will remember it not only for its underlying Homeland Security theme remembering and recommitting its resolve to fight terrorism one year after the attacks on the World Trade Centers, Washington D.C. and Pennsylvania, but also for the entertainment, the business, and the objectives accomplished. Conference organizers not only honored four New York Guardsmen who perished

Ernest Borgnine, Connie Stevens, Ed Asner, Barry Pepper, and Jerry Bruckheimer demonstrated their support for the National Guard and their commitment to the Spirit of America. The Guard honored them with special awards—including an honorary field promotion for Tom Selleck to First Lieutenant in the State Military Reserve.

Selleck, a former California Guardsman who attended the California Military Academy, gave an emotional acceptance speech, telling nearly 4,000 guests that those who criticize people who served in the National Guard during Vietnam are often the same people who do not serve their country in any capacity.

"People attempting to publicly trivialize (service in the National Guard) kinda made me mad. And



PHOTO BY FRED-OTTO EGELER

**Ed Asner, Carol Connors, and Ernest Borgnine attend the Adjutants General Reception on the Queen Mary.**

at the World Trade Center, while serving in their civilian jobs as fire fighters and policemen, but also set the stage to celebrate the Spirit of America. Governor Gray Davis, commander-in-chief of the nation's largest Guard and CEO for the world's fifth largest economy, turned words into action when he dropped in and signed three bills into law. The new laws expand health care benefits for soldiers and airmen, increase opportunities for home loans, and pave an avenue for recruiting big rig drivers into the California National Guard.

The conference had "star power," as movie stars and celebrities, including Tom Selleck, Sam Elliott



PHOTO BY SFC ROBERT PACK

**The 163rd Air Refueling Wing's award winning Honor Guard performs a flag ceremony at the All States Dinner.**

I've always taken comfort in the fact that those doing the talking are, invariably, the same people who chose not to serve their country. So, there have been times where I felt it was important to speak out in support of the National Guard. As my pal Sam (Elliott) said, "It wasn't always easy." I certainly didn't do it to get more work in Hollywood. They called you names in those days, sometimes. But Sam believed, and I believed in fulfilling our military obligation and we did," Selleck said.

Sam Elliott, another former Guardsman, talked to the audience by telephone, conveying his appreciation for the National Guard and the Guard

members' dedication to service in the aftermath of the 2001 terrorists attacks.

## Something for Everyone

The conference had something for everyone and echoed themes for readiness, homeland security, and an expression of zeal and courage to continue the American tradition of life. Over 150 golfers enjoyed the NGAUS golf tournament at the Seal Beach Navy Golf course, and more than 300 runners participated in the NGAUS 5-kilometer Fun Run.

For the history buffs, the State Military Reserve sponsored displays from California's Military Museum showcasing weapons, uniforms, and other memorabilia from as far back as the 18th Century. Veterans from World War II and the Korean War were on hand to answer questions and speak about their experiences. According to Brigadier General William Hamilton, Commander of California's Center for Military History, the displays bring to life the military's proud service in defending the United States.

Among the highlights making this convention one of the most successful in NGAUS convention history was one of the largest corporate sponsorship exhibits ever assembled for a convention. More than 340 exhibitors showcased hundreds of products with such corporate names as, Boeing, Sikorsky, Raytheon, Oshkosh and Lockheed Martin.

More than 800 National Guard spouses and guests enjoyed a special treat at the Brunch and Fashion Show while their significant others attended conference business. Mrs. Janet Combs, wife of California Army National Guard Brigadier General James Combs, organized the brunch, and special guest, Tammy Lee Webb, of Fitness TV, and better known for her "Buns of Steel video" shared her fitness philosophy.

Laura Monroe, wife of Major General Paul D. Monroe, Jr., The Adjutant General, hosted a special luncheon for spouses. Joan Rivers, Groucho Marks, Clark Gable, and Marilyn Monroe "look-alikes," greeted wives of the adjutants general as they arrived at the Sky Room Lounge entrance near the Long Beach Convention Center. The luncheon

donned an "Academy Award" aura as wives posed for pictures with the celebrity look-alikes and answered questions from "paparazzi" clamoring at the entrance for photos and quotes from the prestigious guests.

While delegates attended the business sessions and planned strategy on how to pass legislation, conference organizers arranged transportation and passes to nearby amusement parks. Colonel Bob O'Neil organized trips to Knotts Berry Farm, Catalina Island, Disneyland, and Universal Studios.



PHOTO BY JIM OBER/TRACKSIDE PHOTO

**ABOVE PHOTO:** Secretary of the Army, Thomas E. White, accepts an award from outgoing NGAUS President, MG (Ret.) Ronald O. Harrison.

**RIGHT PHOTO:** General Ralph E. Eberhart, Commander, U.S. Northern Command and NORAD addresses the NGAUS business session.



PHOTO BY SSGT LANA MILLER



## Homeland Security Theme Underscores NGAUS Business Sessions

The events swirling around the conference, however, did not detract from the conference business. Secretary of the Army Thomas E. White said that the Army National Guard is playing a critical role in pursuing both the War on Terrorism, as well as the Army's transformation into a "Future Combat System."

The Secretary presented plaques to individual Guardsmen and announced that the Department of Transportation would send similar plaques to each of the Nation's National Guards.

## Conference Concludes on a High Note

The feeling of security pervaded the entire conference, peaking with the All States Dinner on Monday, September 9th — a dinner that left memorable impressions. The California National



PHOTO BY SFC STEVE PAYER

**The 82nd Airborne's 23-member "All-American" chorus was a featured attraction and gave an outstanding performance at the NGAUS 2002 Annual Conference's All States Dinner, and ended the gala event with a standing ovation.**

The Secretary was complimentary about the National Guard's role in the Weapons of Mass Destruction arena, saying that the 27 certified Weapons of Mass Destruction Civil Support teams can protect 95 percent of the U.S. population with reconnaissance, decontamination, and security. White said that an additional five teams would be certified next year, bringing the total to 32 teams.

General Ralph E. Eberhart, Commander, U.S. Northern Command and NORAD, explained the new Northern Command and its responsibility for homeland defense, saying that it will work closely with civilian authorities to share intelligence.

The Honorable Norman Y. Mineta, Secretary of Transportation, thanked the National Guard for quickly organizing and protecting America's transportation systems following September 11th.

Guard's own Second Lieutenant, Sonya Moore, accompanied by the Minuteman Band and musicians from the California Air National Guard's 163rd Air Refueling Wing, revealed her singing talents with an electrifying performance before the star-studded military audience. Her performance was followed by the 82nd Airborne Choir that provided a memorable finale to the most successful NGAUS conference ever. The patriotic entertainment held the 3,000- plus audience for entire evening and left most with memories that will draw them back to California the next time it hosts the NGAUS conference — memories so strong that they will endure forever. A memory that will leave delegates, their families, and guests asking, "When will California host its next NGAUS conference?" 🐾

# The Office of Policy & Liaison: Working for You, Always

By Major Stan Zezotarski

**W**hen opportunity knocks at the door of the California National Guard, the Adjutant General's Office of Policy and Liaison has answered.

And they've proactively answered with the intent outlined in The Adjutant General, Major General Paul D. Monroe, Jr.'s legislative action plan – a plan that informs key state and federal elected leaders about what the California National Guard does on a daily basis, and the resources its airmen and soldiers need to continue performing at a high level.

A case in point: The California Air National Guard's F-16 fighter jets have performed admirably, with two jets exceeding 5,000 flying hours, thanks to its ground maintenance crew. It was Policy and Liaison, in conjunction with the Media Services Directorate, that organized Governor's office visits to the Fresno-based unit. Policy and Liaison kept the Governor abreast of what the unit was flying and what state-of-the-art equipment the unit needed for Homeland Defense. As a result, Governor Gray Davis was well-armed with knowledge and information when he announced that he was throwing his support behind acquiring the F-15C fighter jet.

"I've sent a letter to the Secretary of the Air Force, James Ross, asking that he deploy F-15Cs to the 144th Fighter

Wing in Fresno," Davis said. "This fighter wing has protected us since September 11th. It flies missions up and down the state of California and up to Southern Oregon. It deserves the very best fighter equipment it can receive, and the F-15Cs have greater range, better radars, and more air-to-air missiles. The decision is whether they should go to North Dakota or California. There's not a doubt in my mind that they should come to California—particularly in light of news that the Golden Gate Bridge and film studios in Southern California have been targeted by potential terrorists overseas. This new rapid airplane should be deployed to California. We have a far more compelling case to make and I expect the Secretary to respond positively to my request—and the request of the California (Congressional) Delegation."

Policy and Liaison was a conduit to the Congressional Delegation regarding the F-15C and other critical California National Guard issues. The Office of Policy and Liaison has organized legislative lifts, arranged briefings, and organized a community outreach program that has increased the size of its audience.

"Our community outreach program is in its infant stages," said Policy and Liaison's Deputy Director Lieutenant Colonel Joe Righello. "We recently briefed installation staffs about implementing the program. Early results indicate that it's beginning to take root—especially at Camp Roberts."

Righello said his office is working and training staffs from all of the California National Guard's installations, facilities, and armories and encourages these installations to contact his office at (916) 854-3705 for more information. He added that his office is developing a training module and training an instructor to teach its community outreach program as part of Media Service's Unit Public Affairs Representative Course at Camp San Luis Obispo, January 11, 2003.

The California National Guard's legislative action plan has generated other significant successes. Armed with well-thought-out and thought-



Policy and Liaison representatives meet with Mr. Vince Harris, Undersecretary of Cabinet Affairs, Office of the Governor.

PHOTO BY SFC ROBERT PACK





**Governor Davis signs Assembly Bill 2428 into law, protecting soldiers and arimen on State Active Duty or Title 32 from creditors.**

PHOTO BY SSG JESSE FLAGG

provoking brochures, the Office of Policy and Liaison has alerted federal, state, and local elected leaders about the value of replacing the 146th's C-130 Cargo plane with the state-of-the art CC-130J—or "J-Model." Once California's Congressional Delegation understood the need for the new aircraft, they pooled their collective influence into pursuing the acquisition of the more modern aircraft, as well as a new Airborne Fire Fighting System—to replace the unit's antiquated Modular Airborne Fighting System. California received its first new aircraft in May of this year.

"The "J" model is a greatly improved C-130," said Major General Dan Gibson, commander of the California Air National Guard. "It goes higher, faster, carries more, and does it cheaper—both in terms of amount of fuel it uses and the crew."

The Army National Guard has also benefited from the Office of Policy and Liaison's efforts. The California National Guard will receive upgraded Blackhawk helicopters, additional Single Channel Ground and Airborne Radio Systems, and much needed funding for armory maintenance. Youth Programs, targeted toward

helping California's youth find direction in life, has also received a boost through Policy and Liaison's efforts. The Oakland Military Institute received a \$2 million infusion, while the Angel Gate Academy program sustained its budgetary existence.

"We've accomplished a lot," said Lieutenant Colonel Warren Alberts, Policy and Liaison's Director. "But it's through the combined efforts of a staff of 10 and the support of key directorates."

The office has worked very hard to achieve The Adjutant General's intent at the federal, state, and local levels. But the directorate is sensitive to the needs of its soldiers and airmen. At the recent National Guard Association of the United States Conference and Exposition at Long Beach, the Office of Policy and Liaison worked closely with the Governor's staff to use the event as a platform to sign three bills benefiting the rank and file. The Governor signed three bills into law that expand state health care benefits for soldiers and airmen, increase opportunities for home loans, and pave an avenue for recruiting big rig drivers into the California National Guard.

"These were three of many," Alberts said. "California also enacted legislation that protects soldiers and airmen from creditors while on State Active Duty or Title 32 status. The law is similar to the *Federal Soldiers and Sailors Civil Relief Act* reducing credit rates on home, auto purchases, rent, and providing eviction protection for reservists or Guard members who have been mobilized for state or federal duty."

Righello said none of the Office of Policy and Liaison's achievements, however, is as satisfying as the knowledge that our soldiers and airmen can remain focused on their missions, because The Adjutant General is watching out for them and their families.

## State Legislation 1999-2002

Policy and Liaison is solely responsible for identifying and working state legislative issues for California's National Guard. Prior to approaching an elected official regarding a state legislative need, the Department must first request and receive approval from the Governor's Office. We will continue to demonstrate to the Governor that state benefits, whether it's a military income tax exemption, or perhaps state college tuition assistance, is vitally needed for our Guard members and that California is far behind the rest of the nation in state benefits for Guard members.

Several pieces of state legislation regarding the California National Guard, Veterans, and the California Military Museum were passed since 1999. Such legislation, chaptered into law, during the 1999-2002 timeframe is listed by calendar year together with the name of the state legislator who originally introduced the bill.

**Governor Davis announces his staunch support for obtaining F-15Cs for the California Air National Guard's 144th Fighter Wing.**



PHOTO BY SFC ROBERT PACK





PHOTO BY SFC ROBERT PACK

**Governor Gray Davis signs three bills into law that benefit California National Guardsmen. The bills expand health care benefits for soldiers and airmen, increase opportunities for home loans, and pave an avenue for recruiting big rig drivers into the California National Guard.**

## 1999

**SB 36 (Baca)** – Requires California cities and counties to implement a veterans preference system for employment purposes of civil service by 2002, or adopt a resolution identifying reasons why the local agency does not do so.

**SB 770 (McPherson)** – Directs that land within the DeLaveaga Park property, owned by the state and leased by the City of Santa Cruz be exchanged for land owned by the City of Santa Cruz and leased to the state. The remaining land in DeLaveaga Park owned by the state, shall be exclusively used by the National Guard for instruction and training.

**AB 612 (Jackson)** – Increased the number of armories being used as emergency shelters for the homeless from 13 to 31. The law also allowed the Military Department to continue to be reimbursed for the costs associated with running the program. In addition, the sunset date was removed.

## 2000

**SB 1542 (Schiff)** Turning Point Academy: Established “Turning Point Academy” (a youth diversion program) pilot project for first time juvenile offenders (15 year old+ minors).

**SB 1950 (Lewis)** Military leave: inactive duty training – Provides reservists’ inactive duty training to qualify for paid leave if they are public employees. Reservists can use up to 15 days of the 30 days of military leave for IDT.

**AB 1739 (Bock)** Educational opportunities for veterans: Student Aid Commission – This bill establishes a Student Aid Commission to conduct a ‘study’ regarding educational opportunities for veterans.

**AB 938 (Dutra)** Escheat: Military Awards – This legislation allows military awards and decorations to be deemed ‘irreplaceable’ and would require the State Controller to forward such items to the Military Museum.

## 2001

**AB 1024 (Nakano)** *Department-Sponsored Armories* – This legislation changed the Department’s military construction procedures and will save thousands of construction dollars that can be used towards other Guard facility projects. The Military Department now has the option of using the Army Corps of Engineers for facility construction located on state land, rather than the prior mandate of utilizing the Department of General Services.

**AB 1491 (Vargas)** *Department-Sponsored Retired officers: active duty* – This legislation amended state law in order to return retired NCOs to temporary State Active Duty for certain types of duty and then return them to the retired list.

**AB 120 (Havice)** Anti-Discrimination: California National Guard and State Military Reserve personnel: loans and financing – Law passed that prohibits lenders from discriminating against any person who is a military member in regards to a credit contract/loan.

## 2002

**AB 2273 (Dutra)** *Department-Sponsored* CA ARNG Drivers License Program – Amends state law to allow the California Army National Guard and the Department of Motor Vehicles to enter into a special partnership that allows DMV to issue a provisional drivers license (and later a restricted license) to California National Guard recruits who enlist to train as military truck drivers.

**AB 2428 (Correa)** *Department-Sponsored* CA Home Loan Program for Military Reservists Called to Active Service – Expands the Cal-Vet Home Loan program in 2 ways: extends program eligibility to any “veteran” who has been ordered to duty under Title 10 or Title 32; and it also extends eligibility to any reservist who has enlisted for a minimum of 6 years (or been commissioned) and has served at least 1 good year of service.

**AB 1433 (Horton)** *Department-Sponsored* Military service: benefits – Amends state law to provide financial/credit protection, in regards to credit rate reduction on auto/rent leases, mortgage, eviction protection for reservists or Guard members who have been mobilized for state or federal duty.

**SB 711 (Dunn)** *Department-Sponsored* State employees on active duty: benefits – Amends state law: any California state employee ordered to active duty under “War on Terrorism” will be eligible for differential pay between military pay & state-job pay for up to 365 days.

**AB 1850 (Nakano)** Military service: health care benefits – Allows California National Guard members ordered to State Active Duty to be eligible for health benefits for themselves and families after 30 days of duty – for as long as they perform State Active Duty.

**SB 1801 (O’Connell)** Public employees’ compensation – This bill authorizes the Governor – by Executive Order – to extend SB 711’s “differential pay” by an additional 365 days. The Military Department has drafted the Executive Order and will work with the Governor’s staff to get it signed.

**AB 2670 (Wyman)** Income Taxes: victims of terrorism – This legislation extends the exemption from income tax for military personnel who die as a result of duty while engaged in combat or counter-terrorism *within* the United States; also provides for waiver of interest accrued for taxes due to any taxpayer (including a business entity) who is located in an area declared a disaster area by the President or the Governor.

**AB 1965 (Bogh & Chavez)** Public post secondary education: Congressional Medal of Honor recipients – This bill ensures that children (with poverty level income) of a recipient of the Congressional Medal of Honor who was killed in military service, not be subject to tuition or fees at any state colleges.

\* \* \*

### Military Department Budget Change Proposals

The Office of Policy and Liaison has worked every year with the Governor’s Office, Department of Finance, the Legislative Analyst’s Office and Assembly and Senate

Budget Committee members to demonstrate the Military Department’s fiscal needs. With persistent contact and continuously providing data to these entities, the results have dramatically boosted the Military Department’s budget and even added some programs. Some of these budget add-ons include: significant additional state funding for Youth Programs; \$4.5 million for Los Alamitos Joint Forces Training Base Airfield Maintenance and Repair, and portable sodium lights; \$2.5 million for maintenance and repairs at Camp San Luis Obispo, and funding for a cable repairman; funding for the establishment of the Funeral Honors Program; funding for Fresno AVCRAD helicopter repair operations; and Information Technician positions. Policy and Liaison continues to work to ensure that Capital Outlay (construction) projects, such as property acquisition, are funded.

### Legislative Inquires

From 1999 to present, Policy and Liaison has received and resolved nearly 900 legislative inquiries from the Governor’s Office, state and federal elected-officials, as well as inquiries directly to the Department. These inquiries cover a wide spectrum of issues and concerns.

### Projects / Events

The Office of Policy and Liaison is actively working special events and projects on behalf of The Adjutant General. Types of special events include escorting state and federal legislators to Guard-sponsored events and training, and coordinating “Legislator Lifts” for elected officials, supporting the Governor, including when Governor Davis hosted President Fox of Mexico in 2001. Also in 2001, Policy and Liaison coordinated over 40 state and congressional staff members to visit Guard troops during “Golden Spike” annual training at Camp Roberts. Policy and Liaison’s main objective in supporting these types of events is to connect elected officials and their staffs with California National Guard soldiers and airmen. Obtaining our elected officials’ support is extremely crucial to the Military Department’s efforts to procure additional resources for the California National Guard.

### Other events include:

**December 1999** Ensured The Adjutant General, Plans and Operations, and the Military Aide to the Governor had compatible satellite phones with Governor’s staff and other key state agencies for Y2K.

**March 2001**–Policy and Liaison staff coordinated and participated in the West Coast National JROTC Drill Camp and Competition; California National Guard provided personnel, tents, equipment for display, the 1-184 Infantry Battalion performed an air assault demonstration and escorted several federal and state legislators who attended this event.

**March 2000** – Coordinated Congressional Reception for federal representatives in Washington, D.C.

**California National Guard Administrative Team** – Annually, since Governor Davis has been in office, Policy and Liaison has headed a team of eight soldiers and airmen to work in the Governor’s office for six weeks to prepare bills for the Governor’s consideration and signature. 🐻



# 5,000 Hours and Counting

By Staff Sergeant Heather Pratt

On October 1, 2002, two of the 144th Fighter Wing's F-16Cs surpassed 5,000 flying hours, marking an momentous day in maintenance history.

It was on this day when the two aircraft—tail wing numbers 144 and 234—joined the elite ranks of five other Air National Guard F-16C aircraft. The two jets flew a 1,000 hours more than the 4,000 hours that the aircraft were originally designed to fly. Designed by Lockheed Martin, the monumental feat is a reflection of the 144th Fighter Wing's outstanding maintenance program. The 144th's maintenance workers are dedicated to keeping the aircraft flying, ready for overseas deployments, and on-call for homeland security

Fighter Wing inventory's average is about 4,200 hours, significantly higher than the Air National Guard average. Operation NOBLE EAGLE accounts for the large portion of the high flying hours, as well as previous North American Air Defense Command missions. Still, Major Jim Mark, Aircraft Generation Squadron Commander says, "the ability to fly this many hours has been made possible by the outstanding *lean forward* maintenance program of the 144th Fighter Wing."

Lockheed Martin engineers are currently working on a program called "Beyond Falcon Star" in an effort to extend the life of the F-16 to 8,000 hours. The Lockheed Martin engineers have been instrumental in the



**Aircraft numbers 144 and 234 take off for their 5,000-hour celebration flight. Colonel Amos Bagdasarian, Operations Group Commander, and Colonel Jon Flaughter, Logistics Group Commander, piloted the aircraft.**

missions. On September 11, 2001, the aircraft were on the runway, ready to protect the Western United States and Canadian skies within minutes of the terrorists attacks.

"Our 330 highly experienced aircraft maintainers magnificently keep the nation's highest tasked F-16Cs in the air – guarding America," said Colonel Paul Gruver, F-16 pilot and Vice Commander of the 144th Fighter Wing.

With average Current Operating Time for Air National Gurd F-16s at 3,700 hours, the 144th

upgrades, allowing the F-16 to remain the workhorse of the fighter community.

To commemorate this event, the Maintenance Squadron sponsored a contest for the art signifying 5,000-hours of flight they will paint on each aircraft,

"Surpassing the 5000-hour mark in superb condition is an incredible achievement for any fighter aircraft and its maintenance team. We look forward to the opportunity to fly and maintain the more capable F-15C in our world-wide air superiority mission," Gruver said. 🐾

# BAYEX 2002

A Weapons of Mass Destruction Exercise tests a worst-case terrorist scenario in the Bay Area.

The Weapons of Mass Destruction Drill on the USS Hornet was one in a series of drills during the week-long BAYEX 2002 Exercise.

PHOTO BY SFC ROBERT PACK



By Captain Alana Schwermer

**S**ailors deep inside the bowels of the USS Hornet begin choking, keeling over, and dropping like flies, heads reeling, dazed looks, as the fog of confusion takes hold of members of the crew.

Warnings and screams echo off the walls of the ship's small compartments. Sailors begin dragging buddies from the compartments, but soon, the realization overtakes the ship's command that some unseen chemical or biological agent is consuming its crew. Contamination has struck the USS Hornet!

Little does the ship's admiral know, at the time, that terrorists have planted a biological agent on board and that they have also contaminated parts of San Francisco as part of a plot to strike fear into civilians and paralyze the military.

The simulated scenario began when a Union Pacific

Weapons of Mass Destruction (WMD) Civil Support Teams (CST) have worked together in the same area. No other area in the country has had weeklong drills," said Commander John Haramalis of the 95th CST.

Bay Exercise 2002 (BAYEX 2002), September 16-20 was a combined field training exercise for local, state, and federal response agencies, including three National Guard Weapons of Mass Destruction Civil Support Teams: 9th based in Los Alamitos; 95th based in Hayward; and 11th based in Waterville, Maine.

The initial scenario and the UPRR was followed up by a crop-duster attack WMD scenario at Moffett Federal Airfield in Mountain View, and a catastrophic explosion scenario on board the USS Hornet.

The simulated scenarios played out during BAYEX 2002 were designed to help prepare agencies to work



PHOTO BY KEN JAMES

**Oakland's Union Pacific Railroad Terminal was the first of many "terrorist targets."**

Railroad (UPRR) employee inspecting a train in the UPRR Oakland terminal noticed a container loaded on a flatbed car leaking liquid. After examining it, he radioed the railroad's dispatcher in Omaha and collapsed, followed less than 10 minutes later by a second victim. Within an hour, the Oakland Fire Department was on the scene, followed quickly by two department hazardous materials teams.

The California National Guard, working in conjunction with BART, is poised to react, calming fears, and preserving military strength to keep the area safe. If the mysterious liquid dripping out of the container in the Oakland railyard had really been a nerve agent instead of water, BART and Interstate 980 would have closed and most of West Oakland would have faced a mass evacuation.

"This will be the first time in the U.S. that three civil



PHOTO BY SFC ROBERT PACK

**Combat Support Teams went into the gas-filled bowels of the USS Hornet to obtain chemical samples.**

together to serve and protect California residents and to enhance the response, coordination, communications, and technical expertise of the responding agencies.

It worked. The teams worked closely with civilian agencies to wisely deploy themselves around the region. With the information they gather on the Hornet, combined with the samples taken at UPRR and Moffett Field, the WMD Civil Support Team determines that the terrorists used sarin, VX – or nerve gas.

The information is vital, because it's information on which authorities can react quickly. Authorities begin cordoning off areas, providing proper equipment to doctors to treat victims and initiate vaccinations immediately. Soon the USS Hornet once again vigilantly watches the Bay Area shores, reassuring residents that their military is ready and capable of protecting them from any threats from the air or sea. 🐾




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*The Medical  
Response Exercise  
was a major success!*

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By 1Lt Michelle Van Der Linden

## The Scenario

The assets were pre-positioned and ready to respond in the event of any disaster. The California National Guard, Urban Search and Rescue, and the Disaster Medical Assistance Teams (DMATs) were all pre-deployed at the Summer Olympics in the event a quick response was required for an emergency situation. "Having these agencies in place prior to an event of this magnitude has become the norm after 9/11," said Anne Bybee, a member of the medical division of the Emergency Medical Services Authority (EMSA) and director of the Civilian and Military Operations Center (CMOC) at Rough & Ready 2002.

In addition to the Summer Olympics, a National Dog and Cat Show was underway at the same location. In the middle of the show, an explosion collapsed a major portion of the structure, killing and wounding thousands. "The local hospitals were jammed with patients due to an extended flu season and were unable to admit new patients," said CMOC Commander Bybee. Local authorities requested the agencies in place for the Summer Games respond to the crisis.

## The Players

The California National Guard, Urban Search and Rescue Teams, and Disaster Medical Assistance Teams already on scene quickly rolled into response. The Urban Search and Rescue Team searched for trapped victims and effectively formulated a plan to free them and get injured patients over to the DMATs and Military Medical Assistance Team (MILMAT) for triage and stabilization. New players to this year's training were the California Ambulance Association who transported those who were wounded to the DMAT and MILMAT sites where the most critical were prepped for aeromedical evacuation to outlying hospitals.

"Earlier, a truck came through the area spraying an unknown substance," said Bybee. Later, that substance was determined to be anthrax, and the public health department deemed it necessary to provide antibiotics to everyone who visited the multiple venues that day. A mass prophylaxis site was established and medication was dispensed to the general public who was possibly affected.

## The Background

Such was the scenario created for the Rough and Ready 2002 training session which tested the skills of over 500 people from several different agencies throughout the state to work together quickly and efficiently in order to practice rescue and medical response techniques with the hope of saving lives in the future.

"This year, we were very fortunate to have the Ukrainians participating in the Civilian and Military Operations Center experience," said Bybee. Although the Ukrainians are not new to Rough and Ready, in the past, their involvement has been curtailed to simply observing the Rough and Ready exercises with the hopes of EMSA and California National Guard leaders that the knowledge would be implemented in Ukraine. "We improved the CMOC this year," said Lieutenant Colonel John Crocker, the California Air Guard's Operations Director, "with the Ukrainians taking part in the CMOC operations with both the military and civilian members." "This is a monumental leap," said Colonel Bill Ignatow, from California National Guard Headquarters. "This is proof of an integrated force; it's no longer an us and them concept."

## State Partnership Program

The implementation of the Ukrainians to Rough and Ready is an important part of the training. The state of California is paired with Ukraine through the National Guard's State Partnership Program. The program was formulated after the fall of the Soviet Union with the concept of providing assistance to emerging democracies and fostering open market economies to bring about stability.

## The Outcome

The training appeared to be a resounding success to everyone who participated in the scenario and to the hundred or so VIPs who turned out to view the exercise.

"We know what we wanted the end result to be," said Crocker, "We wanted a rapid integration of all the teams. Our primary mission here is to reduce the time it takes for us to respond, thereby saving more lives," Lieutenant Colonel Crocker explained. 🐾





The Ukrainians took part in the operation of the civilian and military operation centers with both military and civilian members, giving proof of an integrated force. This is a monumental leap, as far as the State Partnership Program is concerned.

# The Road To Commissioning

By Captain Mirtha Villerreal



**T**he Officer Candidate School (OCS) in California has undergone some changes. The most notable change is the inception of the Officer Candidate Indoctrination Program (OCIP). The OCIP is the brain child of the TAC Cadre, who set out to develop a training program that incorporated the teaching methodology and challenges of Ranger, Special Forces and Navy Seal Schools. Just the mention of these schools conjures up images of elite, disciplined, hard-core soldiers. "Once you have gone through Special Forces selection or Ranger training, no one can take that away from you. You have that feeling you have pushed yourself to the limit, that when you are so tired and hungry you can't think straight, you can dig deep inside in order to complete the mission. That's what we wanted OCIP to give the Officer Candidates: that feeling of accomplishment," states Captain Richard Mifsud. Thus, OCIP was born: 72-hours of hell with vignettes that can only be accomplished through teamwork and great physical exertion. But, OCIP is just the first weekend.

The road to commissioning is 18 long months. Training is conducted at Camp San Luis Obispo, and every month the Officer Candidates are challenged. The TAC Officers employ different techniques to motivate, teach, and inspire the Officer Candidates to reach beyond their current level of performance. Officer Candidates are continuously evaluated on leadership dimensions (initiative, followership, physical stamina, oral communication, and mission accomplishment) and Army





PHOTOS BY SFC STEVE PAYER

Values. As the Officer Candidates progress, they begin to not only grow as leaders but as a team and family. The holiday season festivities highlight how much the Officer Candidates have gelled and allows them to interact with the Cadre in a more relaxed atmosphere. In February, classes are conducted in the field, with the Officer candidates road-marching with 30-40 pound rucksacks. By May, Tactics training has been pounded into the Officer Candidates' heads. Fort Lewis Washington (Phase III) is the site where the final Officer Candidate evaluation is conducted. Although they are not expected to be infantry experts, their leadership capabilities are put to the test during two weeks of simulated war scenarios in which the Officer Candidates rotate through leadership positions.

Phase III is physically and emotionally exhausting. It is a testament to the

determination of the Officer Candidates that they maintain their motivation and enthusiasm through this difficult period. This year, with over 800 Officer Candidates from across the United States attending Phase III, four out of the nine Leadership awards went to California Candidates.

Upon completion of Phase III, all Officer Candidates return to California and attend the Platoon Leaders Course. The Platoon Leaders Course is intended to provide the newly commissioned officer with an overview of duties and responsibilities that he or she will encounter when assigned to a unit. The Platoon Leaders course is instructed by company commanders and subject experts. The course covers such subjects as Unit Supply and Maintenance System, Uniform Code of Military Justice, promotion and retention programs, and civilian and military education. 🐾

## ***It's a DEVIL of a challenge, but it could be one of the most rewarding achievements of your life!***

### **QUALIFICATIONS:**

- Minimum Age: 18 prior to appointment as Second Lieutenant (2LT)
- Maximum Age: 30 years of age (waiver may be granted by the Adjutant General of California to 35 years of age and Guard Bureau to age 39) prior to completion of OCS and appointment to 2LT.
- Must be a citizen of the United States.
- Must achieve a General/Technical score of 110 or higher on the Armed Forces Vocation Aptitude Battery/Armed Forces Classification Test.
- Must have demonstrated understanding of, and proficiency in, the English Language.
- Must score a minimum of 850 on the Scholastic Aptitude Test and 19 on the American College Test.
- Must possess 60 college credit hours to begin OCS and 90 college credit hours prior to graduation and appointment as 2LT.
- Must be eligible for a SECRET clearance.
- Applicants must complete a diagnostic Army Physical Fitness Test before entrance into the course and pass with a minimum score of 180 during Pre-Phase I, prior to entering Phase I.

**Call (805) 594-6671**



# Gold Rush 2002: Everything and...

# SONYA MOORE

By Colonel Ernie Zuick

The stars were out in force on the evening of the National Guard Association of the United States' All States Dinner—both the military and Hollywood varieties. But no star shined with more brilliance than one of the California Army National Guard's own: newly commissioned Second Lieutenant Sonya Moore.

Offstage, her polite, quiet, soft-spoken demeanor belies her stage persona. Stick a microphone in her hand and put her on-stage, and— Oh, Momma! A transformation takes place second only to that of Clark Kent's. She becomes the consummate performer with the style, grace, and self-confidence of a show business veteran, and the voice of a soulful songbird. Think of a cross between Etta James and Tina Turner with more than a little Toni Braxton thrown in, and you have Miss Sonya Moore.

As she moved across the stage singing, "Ain't no mountain high enough," and

pointed to an admiring Tom Selleck, it was difficult to tell who was having more fun, the audience or Lieutenant Moore. As she sang, members of the crowd of nearly 3,000 were on their feet, clapping hands, swaying with the music, and dancing in the isles, as they watched Moore do more for a stage than anyone since Wells Fargo.

Although, the All States Dinner gathering was her largest audience ever, the exuberant songstress has been appearing before crowds, since becoming a member of the Catholic Kindergarten Choir in Chicago, after moving from her hometown of Monroe, Louisiana. But, her interest in singing didn't peak until five years ago, shortly before becoming the lead vocalist with Sacramento's "New Blue Flavor," blues band and appearing at many of Sacramento's jazz clubs and the Auburn Blues Festival. After singing with the band for three years, Moore formed her own group, called "Nuance."

So far, 2002 has proved to be a watershed year for Lieutenant Moore. She not only formed "Nuance," she also earned her bachelor's degree, became a commissioned officer, and was voted "Sacramento's best female rhythm and blues performer" by the *Sacramento Observer*.

What lies ahead for this soulful songbird? "I want to be the best officer I can," Moore said, "and earn my master's degree in human resources and also work on some original tunes so that I can go into the studio and cut a CD." As one listens to Lieutenant Moore's goals, watches her perform, and admires her accomplishments, one realizes that they've just learned a new, three-word synonym for excellence. That three-word synonym is, "Miss Sonya Moore." 🐾



**Miss Sonya Moore, singing at a Sacramento Jazz Club with her band, Nuance.**





Lieutenant Sonya Moore, shown electrifying the audience at the NGAUS All States Dinner, works in OTAG's Office of Policy and Liaison when not performing on stage.

# An American Success Story

By Major Stan Zezotarski



Eight-year-old Hector Topete, son of hard-working immigrants, unconsciously learned the value of role modeling by absorbing his parents' tales of what you could accomplish through hard work.

But never in his wildest dreams did he ever imagine attending the U.S. Military Academy at West Point, becoming an officer, a pilot, rising to the rank of full-bird Colonel, or becoming the Inspector General of the California National Guard.

"As a kid, I always thought West Point was only for MacArthurs, Eisenhowers and rich people," Topete said. "I had no clue that someone of modest beginnings could go to West Point."

Along with his parents, Topete immigrated to Weed, California in 1962. His parents worked in the Northwest, initially picking strawberries and other fruits, and eventually settling in the lumber town of Weed. As a child, Topete often worked in the fields with his parents, observing their examples of work ethic, virtue, honesty, dignity, and respect for authority. But he also sensed that these values could fuel his dreams and ambitions in his new country.

These early influences propelled the future West Point Plebe through High School and laid the foundation for future dreams. "I did pretty well in high school," he said. "and knew that I would probably qualify for college." Like for most teenagers, however, the question of which college was ambiguous at the time. The uncertainty quickly evaporated after Topete seized an early opportunity to not only further his future, but also eliminate the financial obstacles in front of it.

"I did not know what West Point was coming into my junior year of high school," he said. "I would not have known the difference between a West Point or an East Point. It was only because I got the opportunity to attend California Boys' State – which is held in the summer between the junior and senior years – that I heard about it. Cadets from each Academy spoke at Boys' State that year. I don't remember what they said, but I do remember their uniforms looked pretty cool. It was there that I asked for information and learned that, 'Wow! It's completely paid for!' All I had to do was apply through my Congressman, become a naturalized U.S. citizen once I turned 18, and maybe get accepted. I remember feeling elated that West Point was not just for rich, influential people.

Topete had the right stuff. As the valedictorian of his class, he had the grades, sports, and extracurricular activities to receive a congressional nomination for West Point. But, while West Point was an opportunity open to everyone, it was also a place that presented its share of obstacles to the



West Point  
Cadet, Hector  
Topete. Circa  
1976.



Weed native. It was a place where plebes had to demonstrate they could cope with discipline, endure physical rigor, and comply with rigid academic standards. Conquering these obstacles would generate rewards, while failing would deliver irreversible consequences – like having to go back home after “not making it.”

“The first year was really hard for me,” Topete said. “It was difficult for those of us who had no exposure to the military, didn’t grow up in military families, and had no clue about military discipline and culture. I quickly found out I didn’t have that kind of discipline. I thought about quitting several times. As I recall, the main reason I didn’t quit was that I could not go home and admit that I couldn’t make it. Not quitting was a big thing.” Part of this attitude may have been because of his Hispanic heritage and pride, Topete reflects, but part of it was also because of his home town roots. “Although our Hispanic culture has a lot of respect for authority, it was not the driving influence for me to enter and remain at West Point,” Topete said. “I was told no one from my home town (Weed) had ever gone to West Point. My friends convinced me it would be pretty cool if I became the first—so I guess I fell for it! I do recall wanting to become a pilot early on.”

But the unique customs of his Hispanic roots gently tugged at him throughout his career. It began when he left home and caught up with him when he was selected to become a Senior Military Fellow in Washington, D.C. It

was here that he realized it was time to give something back to the people and country that had done so much for him.

Topete served in numerous command and staff positions after graduating from West Point. He was a tank platoon leader, tank company commander, aviation company commander, military comptroller, liaison officer to the Government of Mexico, battalion commander and brigade commander. He has served in the 82nd Airborne Division, the XVIII Airborne Corps, the 1st Cavalry Division, the 7th Infantry Division, the U.S. Army in Europe, the Pentagon, and the Reserve Officer Training Corps Cadet Command, before ending up as the Inspector General of the California National Guard. He is a rated military and civilian pilot and a military paratrooper and Ranger.

It never occurred to Topete that he was one of only a

handful of Hispanic American officers in the U.S. Army. He only became aware of the drastic shortage when several senior leaders, such as former Secretary of the Army Louis Caldera, asked him to research this dynamic and provide recommended solutions. He did so as a senior military fellow at the Joint Center for Political and Economic Studies in Washington D.C. The research looked at reasons why there was such a shortage of Hispanic Americans in the U.S. Army’s Officer Corps.

He found that 45 percent of Hispanic American youth do not graduate from high school. That many California Hispanic American youth lacked the information, exposure and visibility of opportunities available to them as officers in the military. Among other systemic causes were the significant Army base closures in California. What was striking, however, was how these facts contrasted with the realities of the Hispanic culture. For example, Hispanic

Americans are the recipients of the most Medals of Honor, proportionately, of any other group, have the highest propensity for military service, and have some of the highest retention rates in the Army. More importantly, Hispanic Americans comprise about 13 percent of the U.S. population and nearly a third of the California population—and continues to grow.

“That’s when I realized it was time to put something back. Four or five years ago I didn’t want to be a role model, nor did I believe I qualified as one,” Topete said. “Now I

know that a role model is anyone who can help plant a positive seed in the mind of a young kid.”

In California, visible Hispanic American Army role models slowly evaporated as Army bases shrank. That’s where Topete sees opportunity for the California National Guard—with armories in more than 100 California communities. He sees this as the ideal medium of providing visibility and exposure of Hispanic American service members to the community—and to tap into a valuable resource for future Army officers and soldiers.

Topete is a visible example to Hispanic youth that they can come from modest means and rise through the ranks. Hispanic Americans, with their ingrained patriotic heritage, are a valuable resource that the Army can court to continue to improve and sustain its strength in the 21st Century. 🐻



Colonel Hector Topete shown outside his OTAG office, 2002

PHOTO BY SFC ROBERT PACK

# DREAMCATCHER

By Captain Alana Schwermer

**A**t 6'3", 255 fit pounds, Staff Sergeant Chris Underwood, 129th Air Rescue Wing, California Air National Guard, is a commanding presence in both an Air Force and football uniform.

But it's his late grandmother's presence where he draws his inspiration. Through the ups, downs, and twists of a football career, Underwood continues to draw strength, encouragement, and motivation from his grandmother's words:

"Make me proud baby, be good, always work hard and be honest at whatever you do...and never give up your dreams. Don't ever quit," said his grandmother, Miss Dollie, a mid-wife, who not only delivered Underwood, but also raised him.

Underwood was 12 when his grandmother died. Her final words have stayed with him as a source of encouragement through the tough times. Hard work and perseverance have taken him far in a career of two uniforms. An Air National Guardsman and also a free agent waiting to sign a professional football contract in the Arena Football League, Underwood, 30, works hard juggling two careers.

In a football career that has ridden the emotional waves of discouragement to elation, Underwood patiently waits for an AFL football team's call, while answering his state's call to instruct and be a role model for youth at the California Guard's Oakland Military Institute. He is also an Education and Training Manager for the 129th Rescue Wing at Moffett Federal Airfield in Mountain View.

Underwood's path to football took several turns before good fortune smiled upon him as a linebacker on a Arena Football League Championship team for two consecutive years. As a youth in Chadbourn, NC, he dabbled in sports, playing baseball and football. After high school he joined the Air Force and came to Edwards Air Force Base in California. After an active duty tour, Underwood launched his semi-pro football career and caught the eye of college coaches at Foothill Community College in Los Altos and St. Mary's College of California in Moraga.

The San Francisco 49ers invited him to tryout for the National Football League team after college, followed by offers from the Arena Football League's Los Angeles Avengers, and the Canadian Football League's Calgary Stampeders. Neither panned out, but Underwood didn't

quit. In September 2001, while working as a manager-in-training at a major retail store in Northern California, preparing for Law School, and a considering a commission in the California Air National Guard, Ray Bentley, general manager and head coach of the Arena Football League's Buffalo Destroyers, called and invited Underwood to try out for the team. Nearly three months later, Underwood signed his first professional football contract with the Destroyers.

Fate, however, was unkind as Underwood sustained a shoulder separation during his first preseason professional football game. Disappointed, but not discouraged, he headed back to California. By July, he landed a spot on the Championship-bound Grand Rapids Rampage.

Following the 9/11 terrorist attacks, Underwood put his football career on hold when he volunteered for Operation AEROSAFE for airport security at Minetta International Airport in San Jose. When Operation AEROSAFE ended in May 2002, returned to football, signing with the San Jose SaberCats—the 2002 AFL Champions. "I've been fortunate enough to be with the two World Championship teams for two consecutive years," he said. "I earned a ring with Grand Rapids, but not with San Jose."

Unfortunately, he was released from the SaberCats prior to the playoffs. He says he wasn't fully prepared to play the season having so recently finished military service.

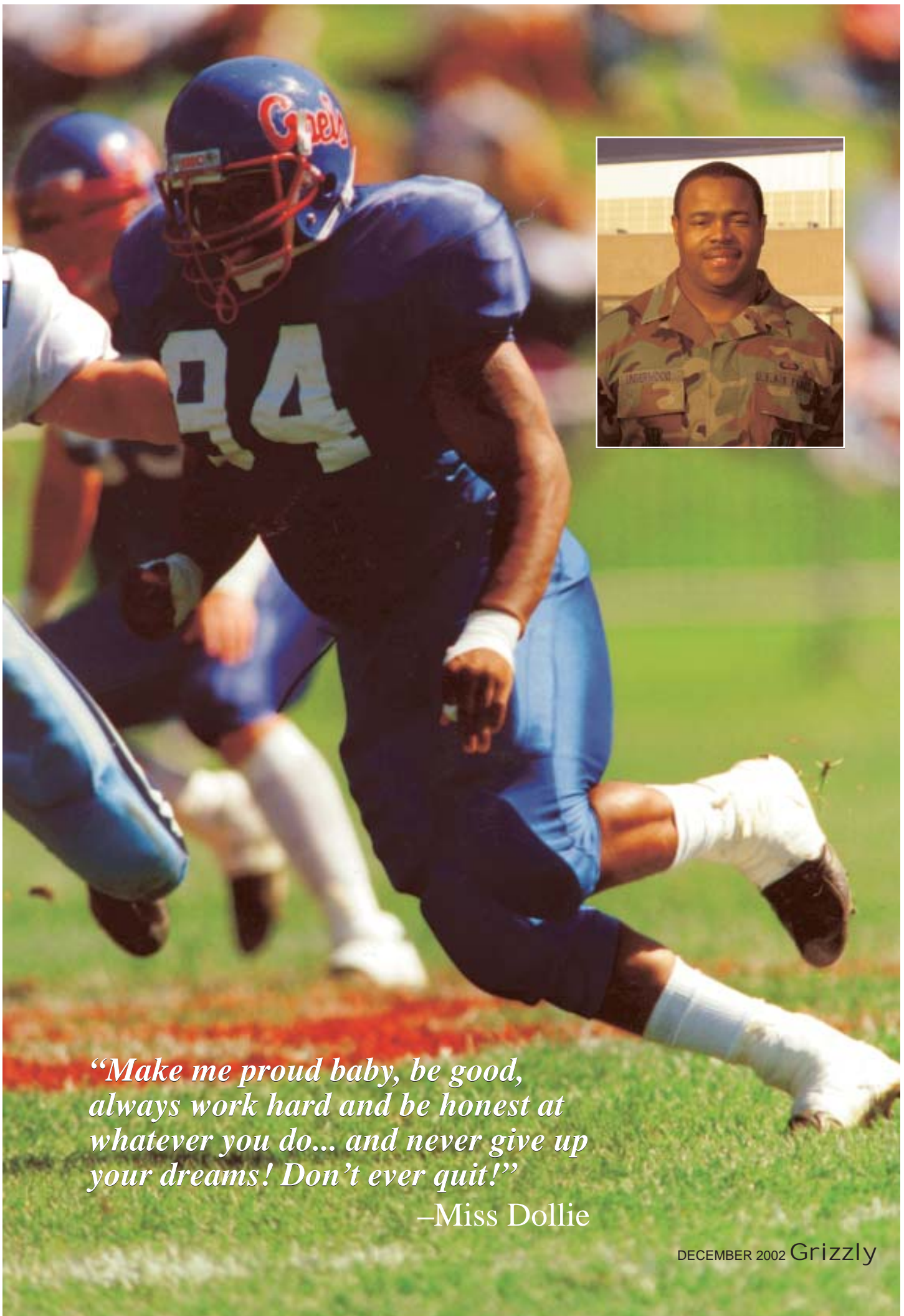
"Football has enhanced my desire to work hard and strive to be a winner. It has also shown me how to persevere and overcome many tough obstacles in life. Football has been my friend, my therapy, my pain, and my building block," Underwood said.

Underwood is also working with a sports agent and anticipates owning a license to officially represent NFL candidates next summer. He plans to attend law school and specialize in sports/entertainment law. Underwood is proud of both his athletic and military accomplishments.

"The Air Force taught me leadership attributes and the impact of teamwork. I wouldn't trade my military experience for anything. I salute the men and women who wear the uniform with pride. Countless numbers of them have influenced my life in so many ways."

Obviously, Miss Dollie is proud. 🐾

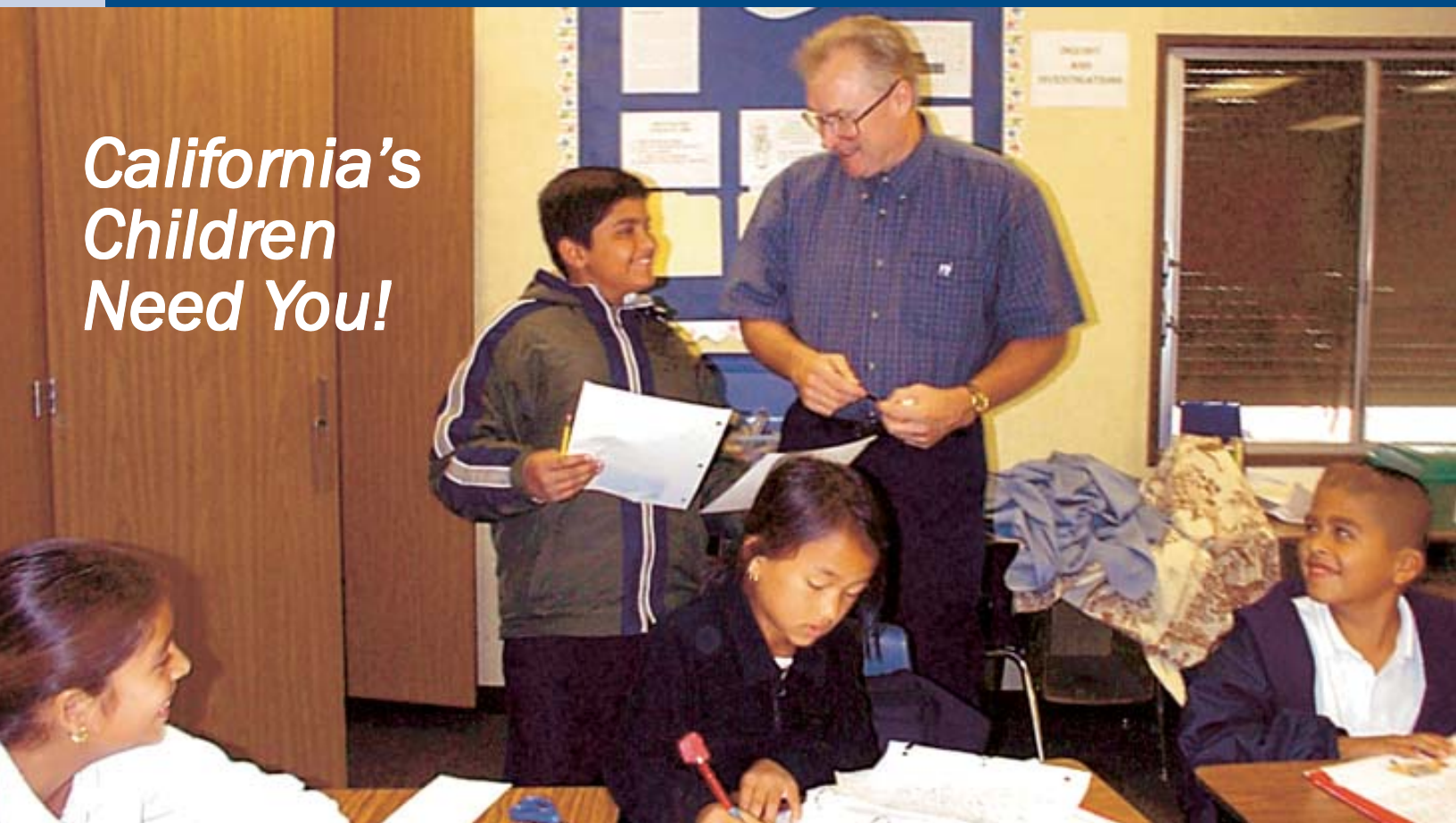




*“Make me proud baby, be good,  
always work hard and be honest at  
whatever you do... and never give up  
your dreams! Don’t ever quit!”*

—Miss Dollie

## California's Children Need You!



# Troops to Teachers

Article and Photos by Captain Kas Jordan

Now that California is suffering a major teacher shortage of epidemic proportions, it's time for soldiers to step in to assist with this crisis. California National Guard members have the integrity and discipline to mentor and coach our children that will ultimately lead to a positive influence on their young lives. This is because many thousands of teachers will be retiring in the next five to ten years. Also, with the cost of education rising, many people cannot afford the extra year of college it takes to become a teacher, but with the federal "Troops to Teachers" program, members of the National Guard can pursue a career teaching youngsters everything from elementary school, high school physical education, and vocational courses such as computer programming, building/construction and health occupations like radiation therapy assisting. This is just a small list of the possible teaching options available to teacher candidates.

The program offers to pay stipends up to \$5,000 to help pay for teacher certification costs and incentive bonuses up to \$10,000 for teaching in a "high need" school that serves a high percentage of students from low-income families. Teacher candidates are also required to pass state tests to obtain a teaching

credential at the elementary and high school levels and must have a college degree. But those candidates interested in becoming vocational instructors can use experience from their military jobs in place of some training, and these candidates must have at least one year of college.

Presently, mathematics, science, and special education are subjects that are most in demand. Even so, there are many opportunities in most school districts from city to rural settings in many other subjects. The Troops to Teachers program also assists personnel by providing referral assistance and placement services. For more information, please contact:

**CDR Rick Nathanson, USNR, (Ret.) Recruiter,  
Troop to Teachers,  
Sacramento County Office of Education  
Sacramento, California 95827  
Phone: (916) 228-2429 Cell: (916) 715-0197  
Email: [rnathanson@scoe.net](mailto:rnathanson@scoe.net)**

Checkout "The Troops for Teachers" home page. It has everything on it from registration forms to teaching subject area interest surveys. Its website address is:

<http://voled.doded.mil/dantes/ttt> 



# 9/11: One Year Later

By Lieutenant Colonel Doug Hart

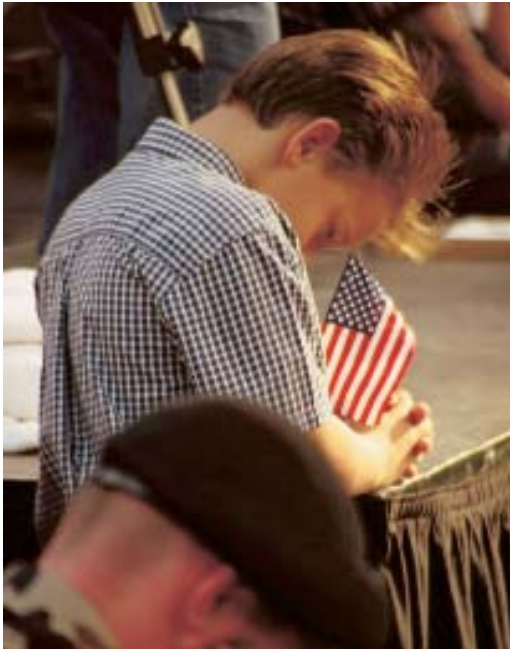
The California National Guard, representing the U.S. Military, generated a spirit of patriotism and a feeling of public stability when they turned out in force to support the Governor's 9/11 remembrance ceremony at the State Capitol on September 11, 2002.

The ceremony recalled the courage, dedication, and sacrifices of law enforcement officers, fire fighters, search and rescue workers, survivors, and the families of victims that either responded or perished in the September 11, 2001 terrorist attacks in New York, Washington D.C. and Pennsylvania. About 3,000 people attending the ceremony, and the more than 500 participating in it, also took time to remember the military service members that are continuing the fight against terrorism both domestically and abroad.

More than 140 soldiers and airmen of the California National Guard from state headquarters boarded busses at 6:00 a.m. The California Air National Guard's 162nd Combat Communications Group and the 129th Rescue Wing transported the troops to Capitol Park. As the marching formation reached the Capitol steps, Mr. Ed Emerson, the Governor's Director of Advance, commented, "What a great sight!" The Adjutant General's "Own Guard" presented the colors to open the ceremonies.

Major General Paul D. Monroe Jr., The Adjutant General, was one of the keynote speakers, along with Governor Gray Davis, Lieutenant Governor Cruz Bustamante, Attorney General Bill Lockyer, and Secretary of State Bill Jones. In his speech, General Monroe stated that, "...nearly 6,000 soldiers and airmen of the California National Guard have been mobilized by the Governor and the President, and have played a major role in our nation's War on Terrorism."

There was a moment of silence at 8:47 a.m.—the time a year earlier when the first commercial airliner struck the



PHOTOS BY SFC ROBERT PACK



World Trade Center. Three F-16s from the 144th Fighter Wing synchronized their arrival perfectly with the end of the silence. The roar of the jets' engines and the audience's loud cheers and applause broke the silence. Each of the F-16s carried four California State Flags that were later presented to the Governor's office then given to survivors and family members of victims from the 9/11 attacks that participated in the State Capitol observance. 🐾

# Team A, 19<sup>th</sup> Special Forces Group

When the Army reached down and tapped the California National Guard unit for service August 15th, it was a sure bet that Team A, 19th Special Forces Group would be in the thick of things in the War on Terrorism. Where they go, cannot be disclosed. What they will do, cannot be revealed. What they can do, however, is well documented.

Headquartered at Redwood City and Los Alamitos, the Group is organized into 12-man "A" teams, but can be augmented and integrated into smaller groups tailored for

specific and unique missions. The group possesses a wide-range of special skills and talents, including airborne, medic, communications, engineer, weapons, and operation and intelligence. They are in essence, "a force multiplier" that can take a force of 500 Afghan troops and shape them into a guerilla force of battalion strength.

They can also parachute near or behind enemy lines to assist with infiltration operations. The nation already has active duty special forces on the ground assisting and advising the Northern Alliance forces that are combating the Taliban. It's unknown whether the mobilized 19th Special Forces soldiers will be joining their active duty counterparts in Afghanistan or if they will backfill for active duty special forces elsewhere in that region of the world. Wherever they go, however, it's a sure bet that they are well-trained, well-equipped, and groomed for their mission. 🐾



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